24th February 1961]

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know whether the production is for internal consumption or is there any possibility of exporting a part of it?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is just counting the chickens before they are hatched. We have not even started the factory yet.

Powerlooms

* 79 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industires be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce powerlooms in the place of handlooms in the State ; and

(b) if so, the procedure for such replacement?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) Sir, it is proposed to introduce powerlooms up to a certain percentage in Weavers' Co-operative Societies, if requested by the Societies. Such introduction does not involve replacement but will constitute an addition to the existing looms.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Then, who will be working on these looms?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The members of the co-operative societies.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The existing members only will go to work on the powerlooms that would be introduced. That means that it is only replacement of the present ordinary handlooms?

THE HON SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I may explain it in a little detail. If a co-operative society has, say, 100 or 200 looms, we may allow up to 10 per cent of power looms, i.e., 10 or 20 powerlooms. And for running these 10 or 20 powerlooms, we will take in ten or twenty workers who have been trained to work on powerlooms. They will become members of the co-operative society and they will earn their wages. The idea is that profits that accrue out of the use of these powerlooms should be distributed amongst all the members including the old members of the co-operative society.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Has the Hon. Minister considered the fact that by the introduction of powerlooms a number of people would be thrown out of employment?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That has been an age long conception, but fortunately disproved by the development of industry all over the world. Automation and mechanization has not brought about unemployment in other countries but has opened up new avenues of employment.

[24th February 1961

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What is the main intention of introducing these powerlooms? Is it for more production?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The intention is to provide better income and better wages for the workers. In the ordinary loom their earnings are poor, but in the powerloom their earnings will be almost doubled.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Is the Hon. Minister aware that the powerloom requires more yarn than the handloom? Even now the Government are not able to supply yarn to the handloom at a fair price to the weavers. How do the Government expect to provide yarn to the powerlooms?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The question of the hon. Member is based on an assumption which is incorrect. There is plenty of yarn available in the country, but the price in sympathy with the price of cotton, rates of wages payable to the textile workers, etc., have gone up. There is no dearth or shortage of yarn in the country.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : As a matter of fact, at no time in
8-10 p.m. Madras there used to be available more than 500 bales. Today I may tell the Hon. Minister that not even 100 bales are available in the Madras market. That means that there is only shortage and it is not an assumption. Will the Hon. Minister clarify this?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : These are all seasonal fluctuations. Shortage is one which is continuous. We are all aware of the seasonal fluctuations in the supply and demand of yarn and there is no overall shortage of yarn in the country.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The price is continuously rising in the past so many months in spite of the Government's assurances. That means that it is only due to shortage. It is not due to any other factor. Will the Hon. Minister clarify?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The hon. Member is giving his conclusions and not asking for any information. He is only confirming what I said just now. The position is this. With the increasing prices of cotton, with the increasing wages for labour, and with the increase all round in the cost of production, the price of yarn also goes up. Correspondingly the price of cloth also goes up. Correspondingly, the prices of handloom goods are also showing an upward trend. Therefore, it is wrong to say that the prices go up because of shortage. It is not because of shortage but because of the general trend in the level of prices all round.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : By introducing powerlooms we expect more production of cloth. That means there will be at one stage slump in the cloth market. What will the Government do in such cases?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is purely hypothetical. My expectation is that in another fifty years to come we will never face a slump in any sector.

24th February 1961]

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : I concede the Minister for Industries is an expert in handlooms. But as his idea in shifting from handloom to powerloom is to make the workers earn more, why not shift completely from handloom to powerloom irrespective of the consequences of unemployment?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : If the hon. Member means, "Why not shift the whole thing to textile mills?", then we say that the capital to be invested is too heavy and it cannot be done immediately. It will progressively happen. If the hon. Member says, "Why not shift all of them to powerlooms?", there, again, the investment is heavy and the availability is not as the hon. Member imagines. We may not get powerlooms in such large numbers as we want. Therefore, this has got to be done progressively and only—I want to repeat—if requested by the handloom weavers in the co-operative sector.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I take it that the Minister for Industries wants to give this warning to handlooms that they cannot remain for long and that they should shift slowly to powerloom?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : I am afraid even the inference is incorrect. There are certain sectors of handlooms production which will continue in perpetuity. There are several skilled designs and certain patterns which cannot be easily woven by machines. Those things will continue to be the pride of handloom production in our country. And I envisage the handloom to survive for all time provided they take to these specialised productions.

SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI : What are the varieties of handloom cloth which the Government want to transfer to powerlooms?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : There is no particular variety. Normally, these common patterns like dhoties and sarees can be more easily woven in powerlooms than the specialised varieties like 'chintz' cloth and so on.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The Hon. Minister is aware that the *per capita* consumption of cloth during the Second Plan period has increased only by one yard. How is it that the Hon. Minister expects that there will be no slump in handloom cloth?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The population has increased.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : My first answer is that the standard of life of the people has gone up; their money wages are going up. My second point is that the population, as the Hon. Minister for Finance has said, is increasing. We will, therefore, require more cloth.

[24th February 1961

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : All these things are happening even now.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Let the hon. Member have something for the Budget discussion.

SRO S. K. SAMBANDHAN : All these things will be happening even during the Third Plan period. How does the Hon. Minister expect consumption to go up beyond one yard *per capita?*

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The hon. Member apparently holds views diametrically opposed to the views held by the Government. He may present them during the Budget discussion and we will have plenty of opportunity to meet them.

SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : ஒரு 'லூம்'-க்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் தேவைப்படுகிறது? அதனால் ஏழைகளுக்கு லாபகரமாக இருக்குமா?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : ஏழைகளுக்கு லாபகரமாக இருக்கும் என்பதுதான் சர்க்காரின் அபிப்பிராயம். காரணம் இன்றைக்கு சாதாரணமாக ஒரு கைத்தறியிலிருந்து ஒரு தொழிலாளிக்கு மாதம் ரூ. 50-லிருந்து 60, 70 வரை துணி நெய்வதில் ஊதியம் கிடைக்கும். பவர் லூமில் வேலை செய்தால் நான் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 2½-லிருந்து ரூ. 4½ வரை கிடைக்கிறது. தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு இதனால் நன்மைதான் கிடைக்கிறது. பவர் லூம் என்ன விலை என்பது பற்றி என்னிடம் விவரம் இல்லை.

Music teachers

* 80 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Government Order laying down the minimum qualifications of Music Teachers in Secondary Schools has been passed in 1956; and

(*b*) if so, the date from which it has been brought into force?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The revised qualifications are applicable to teachers employed on or after 8th October 1956, the date of the order.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : May I know what is the additional qualification that is insisted upon as per the Government Order?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I would refer the hon. Member to the Government Order.